

RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION

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February 2006 Newsletter

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Sunny February Greetings!

Of course by the time you read this, we may be into winter weather again. Not to worry, those who missed our Japan Vacation time in January, will be happy to know we have another treat in store for us February 27th when Frank Zuccarrelli will demonstrating pastel. Frank is RVAA's ONLY Honorary Member, and something of a national treasure—we are honored to have him demo for us. Frank is a member of the Pastel Society of America, the American Society of Marine Artists, the American Artists Professional League, among other arts organizations, and he is a member of the Salmagundi Club. He has won numerous awards and honors and his paintings—oil, pastel, and more, are all around the world. You simply must come! Sherry Engelberg will be our Hospitality Provider for the February meeting and we thank Sherry for this!

Speaking of Hospitality, it would be really good to have two providers for each meeting. Volunteers please, please phone President Linda Arnold at 908/647-3610. While we're at it, Raritan Valley has been offered a show by the Simon and Sara Birnbaurn Jewish Community Center. It's an excellent facility, with good gallery space (SAA has had several shows there). We can have a reception and the Center provides color postcard invitations. We just have to hang, but we need a Coordinator. Do we have a volunteer? The show can be this very spring, or even later, in the fall. Again, please call Linda at 908/647-3610.

Debbie Hughes rates **TWO VERY BIG THANK YOU'S**. We thank her for the use of the video projector for our January "Japan" presentation. And now we thank her for once again stepping in to run the annual **RVAA BIG APPLE TRIP**. On April 29th we will have our famous bus trip to New York City and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, finishing up at the Salmagundi Club to view the American Watercolor Society Show. We meet Saturday, April 29th, at 8:15 am, upper parking lot of the Somerset County Library (Vo-Tech School is there); and we are bussed to both places (although you may remain at the Met all day and will be picked up there if you don't care to see the AWS Exhibit). Debbie even has snacks on the way home, since it will be about 6 or so when we come back. All this for \$25! Please make your check out to RVAA and mail to Debbie Hughes, 255 Falmouth Place, Bridgewater, NJ 08807. If you need more info, her phone is 908/725-4639. Believe me, this is a trip you do not want to miss. We always have a great time!

6TH ANNUAL JURIED SHOW AT THE BERNARDSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY is coming in April. Receiving is Thurs. April 6th, pickup of those not selected is April 7th; those selected will be picked up April 29th. The fee is \$10. Please call Kathleen Palmer at 908/766-1576 to receive your prospectus.

From RVAA Member Kit Bebbington we have the following: On Saturday, May 20th: Trinity United Church, Warren will have its Third Annual Art Show and Sale. Members are invited to display and sell their art work. Please call or email Kit Bebbington for details. phone 732 356-3730 email: kitlink@verizon.net

ALSO FROM KIT: On Sunday, September 10th Warren Township will be celebrating its Bicentennial (1806-2006) with a Parade, an Antique Car Show and an Art Show at the Municipal Grounds; among other events at various times during the year. If you've ever lived, worked or passed through Warren Township, you will have noticed the beautiful, pastoral settings. And, if you happen to be an artist, you may have painted one or more of these beautiful scenes. You might consider entering the show. Please call or email Kit Bebbington for an entry form and more information. Phone: 732 356-3730 Email: kitlink@verizon.net.

LOCAL MUSEUM SHOWS

The Princeton University Art Museum is open to the public without charge Tuesday—Saturday, 10-5pm and Sunday 1—5 pm. Special exhibits include *Homerica Themes in Italian Renaissance and Baroque Art*, through February 19th, *Between Image and Concept:Recent Acquisitions in African-American Art*, through February 26th,and the film “25TH Screen” by Chantal Akerman, through February 26th. Founded in 1882, the museum is one of the leading university art museums in the country with collections including over 60,000 (yes, 60,000!) works of art, ranging from ancient to contemporary art and concentrating on the Mediterranean regions, Western Europe, China, the USA, and Latin America.

What your editor found fascinating was their website www.princetonartmuseum.org. If you go to “the collection” you can then click onto their newly created Asian Art Website. Having gone to Japan, I was interested in what the museum has—wow! Click onto Japan and you can get an eyeful of wonderful pieces and then click on individual pieces, even to enlarging them. Pretty cool!

Seeing as the museum is located on the campus of Princeton University, you might as well make a day of your visit, and see the chapel, and various pieces of sculpture on campus, at the same time. For further information, please call 609-258-3788.

The Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum is located right on the Rutgers University Campus in the heart of New Brunswick at 71 Hamilton Street. For further information, please call 732-932-7237.. The museum is open Tuesday—Friday 10-4:30 pm and weekends from noon until 5 pm. There is a \$3. admission charge for adult non-members. The first Sunday of each month is free to all. Spotlight Tours are offered each Sunday from 2-2:30 and 3-3:30. There is a café onsite (buy a mug in the gift shop and have a free cup of coffee with your meal!)

Current exhibitions include *Breaking the Mold*, to March 12th, *Japonisme and the Decorative Arts*, ongoing, *Serialities:Repetition and Narrative in Soviet Nonconformist Art*, to March 1st , and *Edward Gorokhovsky*, to March 1st .

In the ongoing exhibit *Japonisme*, selections from the Zimmerli’s extensive collection of late 19th and early 20th century Western art influenced by the art of Japan are shown. French, art nouveau, and British Victorian ceramics, paintings, prints, and posters are shown. On view also are examples of late Meiji and Taisho Japanese woodblock prints. If you’ve read the book or seen the movie *MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA*, you might have some extra fun at the Zimmerli and the Princeton Art Museum.

To further peak your interest, you can view Selections from the Henderson Collection of American Stained Glass. A third-generation stained glass artist himself he studied and collected the work of important stained glass companies which operated in the NY/NJ region.

Up near Morristown, on Normandy Heights Road, we have the Morris Museum, art, science, theatre, history. The museum is open Tues, Wed, Fri, and Saturday 10-5pm, Thursdays 10-8 pm, and Sundays 1-5 pm. There is a \$7 charge for adults, \$5. for seniors. Free admission on Thursdays from 1-8. This is a particularly excellent museum if you have children or even teen-agers with you! I’m talking toy exhibits, railroad train set-up, touch and feel exhibit, Native American exhibits, etc. The kid-friendly exhibits are just as interesting for adults! All ages--beware the tempting gift shop!

As for art, Fine art from the Collection of the Morris Museum, is on exhibit now until April 16th. The initial exhibition of the Murtoth D. Guinness Collection presents sixty of the nearly 700 musical boxes, automatic musical instruments, and mechanically activated figures dating from the late 16th to the early 20th centuries. This extraordinary collection was recently awarded to the Morris Museum and reflects innovative technology, beautiful craftsmanship, and dynamic sound. If you go to www.morrismuseum.org you can actually click onto the exhibit and see and hear some of these!

There are many family workshops and lectures for adults upcoming; please check the website or phone. And finally, in the Bickford Theatre of the museum Feb. 9th—March 5th, A Thousand Clowns, the classic Broadway comedy is revived on stage. The museum has drink, snack, and coffee vending machines there. Further information is at 973-971-3700.

HAVING JUST SPENT MORE THAN FOUR HOURS THERE, YOUR EDITOR CAN VOUCH FOR A GREAT TIME, if you like painting, music, dolls and toys and animals. Take a lunch and have chips and hot chocolate from the vending machines.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

LINDA ARNOLD and JOAN MCKINNEY had their work accepted into the Annual Open Juried Show at the Ridgewood Art Institute, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

ELSA HERRMANN continues to show her work at the Main Avenue Galleria in Ocean Grove, an eclectic mix of artists—painters, photographers, and crafters. Its website is www.mainavegalleria.com Elsa also had work accepted by Jane Law's L.B.I. Gallery, and the Christian Brothers Academy in February

GAY BILLICH, JUDY HUMMER, and JOAN MCKINNEY work accepted into Somerset Art Association's Annual Juried Members' Exhibition which was on display from January 14th to February 11th.

"PANDA" by GAY BILLICH was awarded Honorable Mention in the Annual Juried Mountain Art Show.

DIANA PATTON has five large garden works in an invitational exhibition at Pfizer Corporation in Morris Plains February 7th through March. One of her fishes paintings was just featured in THE DAILY RECORD, in conjunction with a Morris Arts Council Show.

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR NEWS, or you'll be left out and that will be sad. We all want to hear from you. For example, SAA is having a juried floral show Feb. 23-25 and I'm sure some of you will be in it, as your editor will be.